

The agencies actively interested in various phases of industrial medicine are numerous. They include: State Bureaus of Occupational Hygiene, United States Public Health Service Bureaus, American Industrial Hygiene Association, American College of Surgeons, and various foundations carrying out research or educational work; and recently, the American Medical Association through its Council of Industrial Health, and, of course, the State Society through its Industrial Practice Committee.

It is part of the program of the Western Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons to keep informed of the proceedings of these organizations, and so further the interests of industrial medicine. For this reason, we invite all members of the California Medical Association, who find it possible, to attend our meeting. We look forward to much of mutual interest, whatever the special field of our guests.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER LEGGO, M. D.,  
Secretary.

### Concerning a Lecturer on "Anatomy of the Head and Neck."

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
Sacramento, California,  
April 4, 1941.

Mr. J. W. Williams, Assistant Special Agent  
Board of Medical Examiners  
515 Van Ness Avenue, Room 214  
San Francisco, California

Re: Charles Augustus de Vere

Dear Mr. Williams:

Recalling the individual named Charles Augustus de Vere, whom you arrested in Auburn, a news item printed in the *Sacramento Bee* of April 2, 1941, related that Charles Stone, Chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification in Sacramento, advised District Attorney Lowell Sparks of Placer County that "one of the human hands found in possession of C. A. de Vere, asserted bogus medical doctor, under arrest here, has been identified as that of a man arrested in St. Louis in 1926. The hands, preserved in jars, were forwarded to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification in Sacramento after de Vere, awaiting trial here for violating the Business and Professions Code by posing as a doctor, refused to say where he had obtained them. The Bureau official said a comparison of the fingerprints shows the hand belonged to Wallace James Johnstone, then 27, arrested in the Missouri city on a charge of suspicion of robbery. Johnstone gave Spokane, Washington, as his home address. The officials are endeavoring to determine what became of Johnstone subsequent to his arrest."

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

"Charles Stone, Chief of the State Bureau of Identification, today announced C. A. de Vere, under arrest in Auburn, Placer County, on a charge of impersonating a medical doctor, has admitted the source of his collection of preserved sections of human bodies.

"De Vere was arrested in Colfax on March 16 and his gruesome cargo was confiscated by the police after one of his series of lectures on the anatomy of the head and neck,

which the authorities say he gave in many cities throughout the country, including Sacramento, last November.

"In de Vere's possession the police found the equivalent of a traveling morgue—a sixteen-cylinder automobile stocked with preserved sections of the human body, ranging from thirty human skulls to eight jars of eyes. These, de Vere told the police, he used in his lectures.

"Among the collection was a set of preserved human arms, which through fingerprints taken by the State Bureau of Identification, were found to be those of William James Johnstone, arrested in St. Louis in 1926 on suspicion of robbery. A human head, which the police believe also was Johnstone's, was found in the collection.

"Stone said he is checking with the St. Louis police for further details on Johnstone.

"After checking on de Vere's background, Stone said the arrested man was found to be Charles Augustus Devermann, whose home was in New Jersey, although he had been in California for more than five years.

"Stone says the New Jersey police checked with de Vere's mother, who said, to her knowledge, her son was not a doctor and had not gone beyond the ninth grade in school, although he did attend night school for a time.

"Letters and receipts found on de Vere's person showed he had lived in Stockton, Los Angeles, and New York.

"State Investigator Roger Green said de Vere enlisted the aid of a group of doctors in each city he visited to arrange for his courses. He charged \$20 a person for the lectures, which Green said were supposed to be 'refresher courses' for doctors a long time out of medical school.

"Stone declined to divulge the name of the institution where de Vere claims he obtained the collection of preserved human members until he 'is sure de Vere is telling the truth.'

"Records found on de Vere's person show he has lectured in San Francisco and Oakland, and he was recommended by five Sacramento doctors prior to his lecture here.

"Yesterday de Vere admitted he is not a doctor of medicine, although numerous communications were found in his possession with the letters 'M. D.' after his name.

"The complaint against de Vere was sworn to by the State Medical Board."—*Sacramento Bee*, April 3.

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How long ago it seems. In 1859 Mr. Richard C. Downing, superintendent of sanitary inspection of New York City, said, "I consider it very unjust to give the health inspector of the City of New York power to quarantine a house where there is smallpox."—*Better Times*, December 13, 1940.

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Nothing is more important at the present time than to continue and to intensify the campaign against tuberculosis and against syphilis, and I hope that no one will permit his attention to be swayed from the objectives we have in mind, because the fight against these diseases is more important at a time of crisis as a measure of national defense than it is in normal times.—Frank C. Boudreau, M. D.

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In a ten-year tuberculin-testing program in rural and town schools in four counties in Minnesota the percentage of reactors has fallen from 14.1 to 6.75 per cent. The decrease is attributed to a careful follow-up of all positive reactors, with an intensive search for the source of the infection. Contact with open cases of tuberculosis was broken by hospitalization of the case or placing the children in a home free from tuberculosis. All teachers and school personnel were included in the plan.